



THE NEW WELLWYNDER

OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2024

Visit us at www.newwellwynd.org.uk

Message from the Vestry

Dear Friends,

As we enter the heart of autumn, with October and November unfolding before us, it's a time of change and reflection. The crispness in the air, the rich colours of the leaves, and the quieter pace of nature all invite us to slow down, to breathe deeply, and to consider the blessings of the season.

Autumn is a season of gathering in—whether that's the farmers bringing in their harvest, or us, gathering around warm meals, (especially for me big bowls of my mum's homemade soup) spending time with loved ones, and reflecting on the year so far. It's also a time when we naturally turn our thoughts to gratitude. We give thanks for the abundance in our lives, for our family and friends, for our community here at church, and for the simple joys that each day brings.

I'm reminded of the words from Ecclesiastes 3:1:

“To everything, there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven.”

This passage reminds us that each season has its purpose. For some, autumn is a time of rest and renewal after the busyness of summer. For others, it may be a time of preparation - looking ahead to the coming months and planning what is next. Whatever this season brings for you, I pray it's filled with peace, reflection, and hope.

Here at church, there are many opportunities to gather and grow together in the weeks ahead. Our services and events will reflect the richness of the season - from our Harvest celebrations to our Remembrance Sunday service, the organisations such as the Seniors and CAMEO, or the snack bar where you can come for a natter over breakfast, It's a time to come together, to support one another, and to share in the love and grace that Christ offers us.

As the nights grow longer and the days shorter, let's continue to carry the light of God's love with us wherever we go. Whether in a kind word, a thoughtful deed, or a prayer, we can bring warmth and encouragement to those around us.

Wishing you all a peaceful and blessed autumn.

With every blessing,

Eleanor

Message from our Interim Moderator

When Jesus began his public ministry, the first thing he did was enlist a team of key people. These disciples, as they were called, were an extraordinary diverse group of men, drawn from very different walks of life. Jesus gathered them together to be alongside Him, and ultimately to be the nucleus of a new believing community, the church.

I think one of the strengths of the church lies in the fact that we are diverse and different, and yes, at times we bring our challenges, primarily because we are imperfect and flawed, yet, with God's grace, despite our imperfections, together, we make the church the unique organism it is, as the living body of Christ on earth. In the relatively short time, I have been your Interim Moderator, it has been so encouraging for me to see, despite the vacancy, how many of you as the community of faith continue to be active and engaging within the church and community. It goes without saying, that having Eleanor with us during this time is a blessing, which brings among other things continuity. I trust her enthusiasm will rub off and be an inspiration keeping the gospel fires burning within the congregation and community.

As we look to the Lord to bless all our endeavours, God will have to work in us, before He can work through us, and so as we devote and dedicate ourselves to Him, this will become a blessed reality. In many ways we are and will always be a work in progress both individually and corporately as we move forward together in faith, and that sense of togetherness will be important as the presbytery plan is implemented in due course.

As the believing people of God, we are on a journey, our destination is ultimately glory, but the work down here will continue until the Lord returns. Let's make sure that we leave a legacy that future generations will give thanks to God for. We are a small link in a chain which brings not only blessing but also great responsibility.

I'm reminded of a story about Sir Christopher Wren who in the late 1660s was commissioned to re-design St. Paul's Cathedral in London. Apparently, he visited the construction site and was unrecognized by the workers. Wren walked about the site, asking several of the men what they were doing. One worker replied, "***I am cutting a piece of stone.***" A second worker responded, "***I'm earning five shillings two pence a day.***" A third, however, had a different perspective: "***I am helping Christopher Wren build a magnificent Cathedral to the glory of God.***"

May we all have that same attitude and perspective as we look to God to bless our endeavours and His work so that all we do, and all we seek to be will bring glory, honour and praise to our Lord!

Be encouraged,
Take care & God Bless.

Murdo

Rev Murdo C Macdonald (Interim Moderator)

Harvest

God of the harvest, once again our joyful tones we raise
For all Thy goodness, day by day, we give Thee thankful praise.
With blessings rich, from fertile field, and gifts from fruitful tree
We wish, this day, our thanks to yield, with earnest hearts, to Thee.
We ploughed the ground, we sowed the seed, but Thou didst send the rain
In grateful showers, in time of need, and now we've reaped the grain.
The sun with grateful heat did shine, the dew did nightly fall
And now, for loaded tree and vine, we give Thee thanks for all.
The bee, in well-filled honey cells, her sweets for us hath stowed
The crystal water in the wells, for us from springs hath flowed.
The lowing herd, the prancing steed, received we from Thy hand
And we, this day, return our meed, of praise, throughout the land.
Then let us sing with earnest hearts, tho' joyful be each lay
And thankful every song that starts, on this Harvest Day.

T F Young



Re:connect Events

By the time you read this article, we'll have completed two of our five planned re:connect events. As we mentioned in June when we announced these events, we want to encourage everyone to come to morning worship and re-engage in the Christian fellowship we have one with each other.



Our first event – the Songs of Praise where members suggested their three favourite hymns certainly went down well and as Eleanor said on the day – if you didn't like them – then you only had yourself to blame as you had selected them!

Harvest Thanksgiving was our second event – a time when we give thanks for the provisions God has given us daily in our lives. We are blessed by the abundance and choice of food we have and can select whilst others in our world have little or nothing to look forward too and our thank-offering for TEARFUND will hopefully benefit those who need it most.

Additionally, as well as Harvest Thanksgiving, we welcomed into our church fellowship, through the Sacrament of Baptism, two new infants as we celebrated their births with their families and friends and look forward to being able to nurture them in the Christian faith going forwards. Our next event, is on Remembrance Sunday and you will have received your invitation to join us at worship on that day with this edition of the newsletter. This is a special Sunday for many individuals and for many different reasons so let's come together to show our respect to those who paid the ultimate sacrifice to give us the freedoms we have today.

In December, we hope to have an event at the start of Advent and then one nearer Christmas. Watch out for your invitations and put these dates in your calendar and come and join us.

David Walker



Bible Sunday

Bible Sunday is a day on which churches celebrate the continuing impact the Bible has on individuals and communities in Scotland and throughout the world. This year Bible Sunday takes place on the last Sunday of October, which is the 27th October 2024.

It does indeed provide an opportunity for the church in Scotland to celebrate the Bible, this wonderful gift that God has given us of his word, through which God speaks so powerfully into our lives. The text being used this year is Psalm 34, a nearly 3,000 year old song found in the Bible. In this Psalm, David reflects upon a time when he was in deep trouble. In that trouble, David sought God, looked to God for help, and called on God to save him. David's joyful testimony is that God delivered him from trouble. The Bible makes clear that trouble comes to each one of us. But it is equally clear that God makes a difference in the midst of our troubles, and that his presence and power transform our lives in troubled times. So if we find ourselves in trouble today, God, as ever, has a word for us from his living word, the Bible, that will help transform our lives.



We will remember them!

On almost all War Memorials you will read the words "Their Name Liveth for Evermore." This phrase comes from the Jewish book of Ecclesiasticus (Chapter 44:14). The verse reads "Their bodies are buried in peace; but their name liveth for evermore." The full text of verse 14 was suggested by Rudyard Kipling as an appropriate inscription for memorials after the First World War. Kipling also suggested the memorial phrase "Known unto God" for gravestones marking the resting place of unidentified or unknown soldiers. The memorial phrase "lest we forget" is taken from Kipling's poem 'Recessional' - in which he writes at the end of each verse, "Lord God of Hosts, be with us yet, lest we forget—lest we forget!"

At this time of Remembrance, the book of Ecclesiasticus also reminds us to:

'Give praise and thanks to godly men and women, our ancestors in generations past. Those whom the Lord honoured with great glory, in whom His greatness has been seen from the beginning of time. There were some who ruled kingdoms, there were great statesmen and women who governed our nations with truth, rulers who issued sound judgements, and who spoke with great wisdom. These God respecting individuals were famous in their own times and honoured by the people of the day. There are others who are not so well remembered, almost as if they had not lived, they died and were soon forgotten. But we will remember everyone, all of these godly men and women, whose faith, righteous deeds and self-sacrifice should never be forgotten. Their good names will be passed down as a noble legacy and their descendants will continue to honour them because of what they achieved. Their bodies have been laid to rest, but *Their Name Liveth for Evermore!*'

George Randall



PoppyScotland provide support for current and former members of the Armed Forces as well as their families. This support, in recognition of their sacrifices and service, is holistic and bespoke. They have helped countless men, women and families with issues linked to their time in the Armed Forces or with struggles adjusting from military to civilian life.

They even help with needs that have arisen long after someone has left the Armed Forces. Whenever, wherever support is needed, they are there. Donations received during the Poppy Appeal are used to provide this life-changing support, so if you can, please give generously to this year's appeal.



Thank you

Sandra and Ralph DiMascio would like to thank the congregation for the lovely flowers received. They were very much appreciated.

Senior Circle

We began our new session with an interview with Eleanor Hamilton, our Probationer Minister. Eleanor was brave enough to face unseen questions from Liz Riddell, Anne Learmonth and a few of our group. It was a great opportunity for us all to learn more about Eleanor who also brought along a couple of her handmade crochet blankets which she loves making. Our second meeting was a very interesting talk and screen presentation on the work of the Maggie's Centre Lanarkshire. Colin Mathieson, one of the fundraisers, talked us through all the valuable work that is provided in the Centre not only to people living with cancer but also their families and friends. This fabulous service is available to anyone at whatever stage of their cancer journey they find themselves and whenever they may need Maggie's. **Maggie's annual Christmas Fayre takes place in New Wellwynd Parish Church on Saturday, 16th November.** Please if you are able, come along and support this worthwhile cause.

Our upcoming meetings are:

8th October- Fire Brigade, Coatbridge

5th November - Albert Bartlett, Airdrie

3rd December – Christmas Celebrations

22nd October - Dennis O'Keefe, Voice of Experience

19th November - Margaret Jack and David Walker

Anne Learmonth

Congratulations

Many congratulations to Jean and Robert Kinniburgh who recently celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary.

Note from the Editor

You will notice there has been a change in the format of the Church Magazine. Hopefully this new format is more pleasing on the eye and easier to read. You will also notice that this current edition is for **October/November**. Going forward the magazine will be published on a bi-monthly basis with six publications per year. Another proposed change is that the Magazine will be ready for delivery by distributors on the last Sunday of the month. The next one **December/January** will be ready for uplift on the last Sunday in November. Anybody wishing to submit anything for inclusion in the magazine should contact the editor George Randall. Home: 01236 763102, Mobile: 07738089762 email: RndGLR@aol.com

Our Church organisations are also encouraged to provide updated news with regard to ongoing activities and events by contacting Mrs Isobel Sorbie (Sub-editor) Mobile: 07821636823, email: isorbie@gmail.com

The Editor

Church Notices

Morning worship every Sunday at 11.00am.

Harvest Thanksgiving Service with Sacrament of Baptism - Sunday, 6th October

Rededication Service - Sunday, 27th October

Evening Service - Sunday, 3rd November (6.30pm)

Remembrance Sunday Service - Sunday, 10th November (10.45am)

Afternoon Advent Service - Sunday, 1st December (4pm)

Tea and coffee will be served in the Church Hall after morning worship.



Delve in at Twelve - Wednesday Services at 12 noon

Our midweek service on a Wednesday at 12 noon will continue during the autumn months.

The service is followed by tea and coffee.

Funerals

Linda McDonald, Charles Bruce

Useful Contacts

Probationer Minister: Eleanor Hamilton 07594163051

Session Clerk: David Walker 01236 747075

Treasurer: David Watt 01698 853921

Roll Keeper: Moira Gartshore 01236 761001

Hall Convener: John Clydesdale 07512912016

Gift Aid: David Walker 01236 747075

Magazine Editor: George Randall 01236 763102
or 07738089762

Congregational Finances

In the June 2024 issue of this newsletter I drew attention to the recent downward trends in our offerings following then recent finalisation of the report and accounts for 2023. At its meeting last month the Congregational Board considered the latest position on offerings for this year as part of its review of our overall finances. While a small number of members have responded positively to the earlier request to prayerfully consider their offerings – and this is very welcome – the Board heard that the picture for this year in the eight months to August in comparison with the same period last year and this year's budget was one of potential alarm in terms of the implications for us in the next few years.



Receipts from offerings – our principal source of income – were just over £78,000 in the period to August; our plans for the year assumed that they would be £81,300, itself a reduction on 2023's receipts of £84,500.

As we approach the first anniversary of being in vacancy, but look forward to next year which could be an important one in our congregation's life, it is vital that we each continue to prayerfully reflect on God's generosity towards us and review our offerings as a sign of thankfulness and pledge of our love.

David Watt
Treasurer

Songs of Praise

The New Wellwynd's Top Ten!

On Sunday, 15th September as part of our re: connect programme we sang the "New Wellwynd's Top Ten Hymns!" During the previous six weeks, members of the congregation were asked to submit their top 3 favourite hymns which were subsequently collated by Eleanor. The result was as follows:

At number 10..... Be Still my Soul

This hymn offers comfort and peace during times of hardship. The hymn is set to "Finlandia" by Finnish composer Jean Sibelius. Its message encourages patience, faith, and trust in God's guidance through life's challenges, assuring believers of His eternal presence and care.

At number 9 O Love that Wilt not let me go

This hymn's vivid imagery and theme of self-surrender followed by reward culminate at the foot of the Cross, symbolising the transition from earthly life to eternal life. The unique tune, "St Margaret," was composed by Glasgow Cathedral organist A. L. Peace.

At number 8 Blessed Assurance

This hymn celebrates the assurance of salvation and the believer's confidence in Jesus Christ. Fanny Crosby, the author despite being blind, expressed her deep faith through powerful hymns like this one, inspiring many with the certainty of God's love and the promise of eternal life.

At number 7 When Peace like a River (It is well with my Soul)

This hymn was written by Horatio Spafford following a family tragedy in which he lost his four daughters at sea. Despite his deep suffering his faith in God never faltered and inspired him to write this moving and well-loved hymn.

At number 6 Will Your Anchor Hold

An anchor is something that provides a firm foundation and security. In scripture it is used to represent God and faith which keep us steadfast and gives us hope during the trials and storms of life. The hymn is closely associated with the Boys' Brigade whose motto is 'Sure and Steadfast!'



And now for the top 5!

At number 5 To God be the Glory

Gained prominence during the Billy Graham London Crusade in 1954. Its enthusiastic reception led to its widespread use in future crusades, and it became a staple in modern hymnals worldwide.

At number 4 The Lord's my Shepherd

After a little bit of hesitancy, Stuart Townend created a new musical version of the 23rd Psalm. While working on another song, he took a break and read Psalm 23, during which a simple melody came to him. He completed the new version noting that the psalm's imagery of movement, walking, leading, and following, resonated with him as a call for an active faith. This inspired him to include a responsive chorus of trust.

At number 3 How Great Thou Art

The writing of this hymn was inspired by a dramatic thunderstorm and its aftermath and the natural beauty and peaceful calm that followed. The hymn gained popularity through Billy Graham's crusades and has been voted the British public's favourite hymn by BBC's Songs of Praise.

At number 2 I the Lord of Sea and Sky

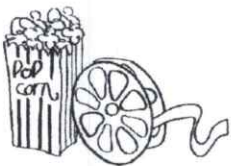
Also known as "Here I Am, Lord," is based on Isaiah 6:8 and 1 Samuel 3:4 and was composed by a theology student. The hymn now appears in many hymnals and is regularly sang at church services. It was recently voted the 10th favourite hymn in the UK.

And at number 1, The New Wellwynd's favourite hymn is Guide me O thou great Jehovah

This hymn was written by William Williams in 1907 and the melody "Cwm Rhondda" (named after the Welsh Rhondda Valley) was composed by John Hughes. The hymn describes the experience of God's people during their journey from slavery in Egypt through the wilderness to the land of Canaan. It reflects their guidance by a cloud by day and a fire by night, their provision of manna, and their eventual arrival in Canaan.

So there you have it and hopefully, one of your own personal favourites is among those listed above. If not, don't despair! In the coming weeks Eleanor will incorporate into our Sunday services many of the hymns that did not make the top ten! So why not join us on a Sunday morning and hear them being sung!

Roving Reporter



Church Men Movie Night

Gentlemen, it has been a while since we had our last evening of fellowship together, when we enjoyed a games night with a difference in the Upper Hall. Prior to that we had a Movie Night enjoying the classic blockbuster, 'The Magnificent Seven!' I am proposing that we host another Movie Night to view another classic! A Movie! A Pie! And A Light Refreshment! No, that's not the title, but what will be on offer on the night! This will take place on **Friday, 8th November with curtain up at 7.00pm**. The cost of the evening will be £3.

Further information available from George Randall Tel: 01236763102. All will be made welcome.

PS Popcorn is optional!

George Randall

The Farm Adventures of Mr. Brown



Once upon a sunny day, in the heart of a green valley, there lived a jolly farmer named Mr. Brown. He had a big straw hat and a pair of muddy boots that he wore every day. One morning, as the roosters crowed and the sun rose in the sky, Mr. Brown got up early to start his day. He milked the cows, fed the chickens, and gathered fresh eggs. The farm was alive with the sounds of animals and the sweet smell of hay.

As Mr. Brown walked through the fields, he saw his neighbour's children, Lily and Tom, playing near the old oak tree. "Good morning, Mr. Brown!" Lily called out, waving her hand. "Good morning, children! Would you like to help me on the farm today?" Mr. Brown asked. "Yes, please!" Tom exclaimed, jumping up and down with excitement. And so, the three of them set off on a grand adventure around the farm. They planted seeds in the vegetable garden, watered the flowers in the greenhouse, and even had a race with the goats in the meadow. "Being a farmer is so much fun!" Lily giggled, her cheeks rosy from the fresh air. Mr. Brown smiled, happy to see the children enjoying themselves. "Farming is hard work, but it's also full of joy and surprises," he said. At the end of the day, as the sun began to set, Mr. Brown sat down with Lily and Tom on a wooden bench overlooking the farm. "Thank you for a wonderful day, Mr. Brown," Lily said, hugging him tightly. "Yes, thank you for showing us your farm," Tom added, his eyes wide with wonder. And as the stars twinkled in the night sky, Lily, Tom, and Mr. Brown sat together, feeling grateful for the simple joys of farm life.

The next day, Lily and Tom returned to the farm, eager to help Mr. Brown once again. This time, the farm was buzzing with excitement because it was time for the annual Harvest Festival. Mr. Brown showed the children how to pick ripe apples from the orchard, gather pumpkins from the patch, and decorate the barn with colourful banners. "Wow, the farm looks magical!" Lily exclaimed, admiring the twinkling lights and festive decorations. "It's all thanks to your hard work, children," Mr. Brown said, his eyes sparkling with pride. As the sun began to set, the Harvest Festival began. The farm was filled with music, laughter, and the delicious smell of freshly baked pies. Lily and Tom danced around the bonfire, their faces glowing with joy. Mr. Brown played a lively tune on his fiddle, his heart full of happiness. "Thank you for showing us the beauty of farm life, Mr. Brown," Lily said, her voice soft and sincere. "Yes, we had so much fun today!" Tom added, his eyes shining with excitement. "You two have brought so much joy to my farm. Thank you for being such wonderful helpers," he said. And as the Harvest Festival came to an end, Lily, Tom, and Mr. Brown sat together under the starry sky, feeling grateful for the magic of the farm and the friendship they shared.



HAPPY HARVEST

Study picture 1. Circle the 10 differences in picture 2.



Harvest

Harvest time is here again
Cut the wheat and gather the grain
Pick the apples on the trees
In the chilly autumn breeze
Dig the carrots the tatties too
Lots to eat for me and you



KID'S CONNECTION
© NEW WELLWYND

HARVEST CRAFT MORNING

FOR CHILDREN P1 - P7 & THEIR FAMILIES

Saturday, October 26th, 2024

10am - 12pm

STORIES - CRAFTS - SNACKS - GAMES

register online at www.newwellwynd.org.uk